

Islamic news agency in plight

AMMAN (R) — The head of the Jeddah-based International Islamic News Agency (IINA) said Wednesday it was in a critical situation with no money to pay its 30 staff. Acting Director-General Ahmad Farraj said: "The agency's situation is still critical. We have a big financial review. We need funds to pay salaries and debts." The agency, set up by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in 1972, runs on contributions from the 46 OIC members. Mr. Farraj, questioned about press reports on the plight of IINA, told Reuters in a telephone interview he presented a detailed report to the OIC summit in Kuwait last month. He said the OIC meeting decided to form a committee to study ways of reviving the agency. Mr. Farraj said he did not know when the committee would meet.

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CBJ reports higher deposits

AMMAN (Petra) — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) announced on Wednesday that its deposits of gold and foreign currency amounted to JD 780.1 million by the end of November 1986, registering an increase of JD 29.535 million over deposits registered at the end of same month of the previous year. The announcement said that out of the amount, the CBJ owned JD 366.767 million and the local commercial banks owned the rest of the amount.

Kuwait reiterates hope for summit

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah on Wednesday reiterated calls for a long-delayed Arab summit to be convened. "We are in need of a meeting at this time because of dangers facing the Arab World and conspiracies directed against it," he told reporters. He said contacts between Arab leaders on the sidelines of an Islamic summit in Kuwait last month were positive and he hoped they would pave the way for a summit to be held soon.

Berri: Waite will be freed 'very soon'

BEIRUT (R) — Shi'ite Muslim militia chieftain Nabil Berri said Wednesday that missing Anglican church hostage negotiator Terry Waite will be released "very soon." Mr. Berri spoke at a news conference in Damascus. He said last Friday that Mr. Waite would be released "within 48 hours." But so far there has been no sign of the burly Briton who disappeared in west Beirut Jan. 20. Mr. Berri on Wednesday rejected a claim by the Revolutionary Justice Organisation, which holds Americans and French hostages, that Mr. Waite was a spy. "This man is a respected man of religion, of international reputation. He is straight and honest, and his role is only to be a referee (mediator)," Mr. Berri said in English.

Aziz in Paris

PARIS (R) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz arrived on Wednesday from Baghdad, airport officials said. They said Mr. Aziz declined to comment on the purpose of his visit or to say how long he planned to stay in France. France has close military and economic ties with Iraq but the right-wing government of Prime Minister Jacques Chirac has also sought to improve relations with Iraq.

Shevardnadze and Cordovez see progress towards Afghan peace

MOSCOW (R) — Diego Cordovez, the United Nations mediator in the Afghan conflict, and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze agreed on Wednesday progress had been made towards ending the war, the official news agency TASS said. "They stated that definite progress has been achieved in this area and that there are chances for further headway," the agency said. Mr. Cordovez, who met First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuli Vorontsov on Tuesday, is due to mediate in talks between Afghan and Pakistani officials starting in Geneva on Feb. 25.

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King returns after Damascus visit; talks centred on Lebanon

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein returned to Amman Wednesday after a 30-hour visit to Damascus where he and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held discussions on the latest developments in the Arab and international scenes and bilateral relations.

During the visit, the King and President Assad held two rounds of closed meetings in addition to expanded talks attended by senior officials from both sides. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, who accompanied the King on the visit, as saying that the King's talks with the Syrian president were within the framework of continuing consultations between the two countries and dealt with various Arab and international issues of concern to both countries.

that he had requested the King to assume a mediatory role to settle his differences with Mr. Assad and arrange for an early Lebanese-Syrian summit.

In his statement to Petra, Mr. Rifai said the Damascus talks between the King and the Syrian president also dealt with the situation in and around Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut and Saida where the Shi'ite Amal militia has been mounting a siege for the past 15 weeks. The two leaders agreed on the necessity to halt the fighting around the camps and avert further damages and tragedies to the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples, Mr. Rifai said.

Lebanese President Amine Gemayel, who is at odds with President Assad after scuttling a Syrian-sponsored peace plan for Lebanon early last year, visited Jordan last week. Reporters said

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Amal blocks supplies to Bourj Al Barajneh despite truce

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Shi'ite Amal militiamen on Wednesday turned back truckloads of emergency food for a besieged Beirut refugee camp where residents are reported to have eaten rats to survive.

Sources with the Amal militia said the last-minute hitch was caused by disagreement over details of a peace plan to end Lebanon's four-month-old "camps war" that has killed at least 750 people.

They said the entry of food supplies into the Bourj Al Barajneh camp was postponed until Thursday after Amal militiamen failed to move back into positions in a strategic Saida Lebanese village.

"Our militiamen could not deploy in Maghdousheh (village) so the operation was postponed until tomorrow," an Amal source told reporters at one entrance to the camp.

Medical workers said refugees had eaten cats and dogs and even rats to survive the 15-week-old Amal siege.

Amal lost its positions in Maghdousheh last November to

Palestinians, who said they took the village to ease pressure on camps in Beirut and Saida non besieged by Amal.

The Palestinians withdrew last month from the village, commanding the main highway from Beirut to the south. Neutral militiamen replaced the Palestinians, but Amal rejected this move.

Amal sources said an agreement, reached Tuesday night between Amal chief Nabil Berri and Palestinians in Damascus, provided for Amal to take back the positions from the neutral force.

Trucks loaded with rice and flour had waited for several hours near the western entrance of Bourj Al Barajneh.

Eye-witnesses told Reuters the trucks, one supplied by the Iranian embassy and one by Palestinians, carried three tonnes of rice and flour for the 30,000 refugees in the camp.

Pauline Cutting, a British surgeon who has worked at the camp's Haifa Hospital throughout the siege, told reporters by radio on Tuesday the refugees had been forced to eat cats, dogs

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Hostages-for-prisoners swap could take weeks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Indirect talks for a possible hostages-for-prisoners deal between Lebanese militants and Israel could last weeks, political sources said Wednesday.

They told Reuters that any negotiations would have to be conducted through a third, and possibly a fourth, party and this procedure would in itself take some time to establish.

There has been no indication so far that such talks have started.

The sources said Tuesday kidnappers had sent the Red Cross a list of some 400 Arab prisoners they want Israel to free in a three-way deal which could lead to the release of three Americans and an Indian held hostage in Lebanon.

The Israeli newspaper Davar reported from Washington that contacts were in progress among the United States, Israel, Syria, Switzerland, the Red Cross, Amal and other militia groups over a possible three-way exchange.

The White House said Wednesday it wanted U.S. allies to know that the United States was not negotiating for hostages.

A political source in Beirut said: "The International Red Cross in Geneva and Damascus are two places where contacts may be arranged."

"Any release will not be done in Geneva. It will be in South Lebanon and the Lebanese (prisoners) will probably be handed over to the Amal militia. Even the Palestinians are likely to be handed over in the south."

Israeli leaders denied that Israel was involved in negotiations.



His Majesty King Hussein meets with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus on Wednesday (Petra photo)

Israelis arrest 50 Arabs, order 9 jailed without trial

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli occupation authorities arrested 50 Palestinians at a refugee camp in the occupied West Bank on Wednesday and ordered nine of them held without trial for three to six months for anti-occupation activities.

A wave of protests followed the arrests and Israeli soldiers fired tear-gas and rubber bullets at Palestinian demonstrators who hurled stones, metal objects and firebombs.

The arrests took place in an overnight swoop at Balata refugee camp near Nablus, scene of frequent acts of resistance against the Israeli occupation.

Police said nine of those arrested, aged 19 to 25, would be placed in "administrative detention," a measure dating to the pre-1948 British mandate over Palestine which allowed jailing

without trial.

Police said they believed the nine were involved in "incitement," throwing stones at Israeli troops and vehicles and threatening local residents suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

Five are to be held for three months while the other four will be jailed for six months.

The other 41 arrested were held in connection with incidents at Balata refugee camp on Sunday when Israeli troops wounded three Arab demonstrators, police said.

Balata, with 11,000 residents, is the largest refugee camp on the West Bank.

Women relatives of those arrested later staged a peaceful protest march from the camp to Nablus town hall where they held a sit-in strike.

Israeli troops also fired tear-gas at hundreds of Palestinians who

attacked soldiers and Israeli vehicles with stones and firebombs on Wednesday.

There were no reported injuries in the violence which spread from Nablus to neighbouring refugee camps and to Ramallah, 10 kilometres north of Jerusalem.

The protest was in response to Israel's detention of the nine Palestinians without trial, Palestinian sources said.

The latest detentions brought to 48 the number of West Bank Palestinians held without trial, an Israeli spokesman said.

More than 200 students at Al Rawda College also protested by stoning Israeli soldiers and waving Palestinian flags. The protesters fled after soldiers fired tear-gas, the Palestine Press Service

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Iraqi planes raid Tehran

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said its warplanes attacked Tehran twice on Wednesday and raided nine other Iranian cities and towns after a three-day halt.

The request prompted an Arab League appeal on Tuesday to Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross organisations to send emergency aid to Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, meanwhile, appealed to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to intervene personally "to save the lives of thousands of Palestinians" at Bourj Al Barajneh, the Libyan news agency JANA reported.

The agency quoted the message as saying:

"We request you to intervene personally to save the lives of

Khamenei: No moderates in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei said Wednesday the United States was wrong to believe there are moderate leaders in Iran with whom it could resume contacts.

But he declared in a speech broadcast by Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, that Iran's attitude to the United States could change if Americans tried to "win the hearts of the nation" by ending their "hostility, their enmity and their hatred."

"Gradually, in the course of many years, it is possible that the views of the people concerning the leaders of the American regime might change."

"However, this nation today... continues decisively, strongly and realistically regard America as the great Satan and as its greatest enemy," Mr. Khamenei said.

Other planes raided Qom and Esfahan in central Iran, Kuhdasht, Nahavand, Borujerd and Shushtar in western Iran, Rezaiyeh and Tabriz in the northwest and, for the first time, Qazvin 160 kilometres northwest of

Tehran.

Iranian surface-to-surface missiles slammed into Baghdad on Wednesday, hours after Iraqi warplanes raided a dozen Iranian towns and cities in a resumption of the air war.

Residents said the blast from the 10th missile attack on the Iraqi capital this year resounded across the city of 4.5 million people and shook houses several kilometres from the site of the impact. Residents said they heard sirens of fire engines and ambulances rushing towards the site of Wednesday's missile strike as a black column of smoke and dust spiralled into the sky. Iraqi authorities did not pinpoint the exact location of the impact for security reasons and have not issued casualty figures for the previous nine missile attacks.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday Israel might consider the proposal by Mr. Berni to free an Israeli navigator believed to be held by his Amal group in exchange for the 400 prisoners.

President Ronald Reagan said in November that he had opened contacts with "moderate elements" in the Iranian leadership in an effort to resume ties with Iran, severed since November 1979.

Mr. Reagan also said that he

had shipped arms to Iran as part of a deal to establish relations.

Mr. Khamenei was the first Iranian leader to comment on the American claim there is what could be considered a "moderate" faction in revolutionary Iran.

In recent days, political analysts inside and outside the U.S. administration have questioned Mr. Reagan's assertions that a moderate element exists in Tehran with which the United States could deal.

Mr. Khamenei said even if there were moderate elements within the Iranian leadership who supported ties with the United States, the Iranian people would not have accepted resumed links at this time.

"Would the people have ever allowed such a thing? Would this nation permit such a thing?" he declared.

Mr. Khamenei has been portrayed as one of the top five leaders in Iran who has favoured some form of contact with the United States.

Shultz to discuss int'l conference with Shamir

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The United States has told Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir it wants to discuss the possibility of an international Middle East peace conference when he visits Washington next week despite his强硬 opposition, an Israeli spokesman said Wednesday.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz told Mr. Shamir in a telegram that they should consider an international conference aimed at leading Israel to direct talks with Arab countries, spokesman Yossi Almog said.

He said Mr. Shamir felt no pressure from the Americans to accept the idea since the United States still favoured direct talks.

Mr. Shamir received the telegram a few days ago and strongly reiterated in parliament on Tuesday his opposition to a peace conference.

"There is only one reason for the Americans raising the peace conference — because Jordan is insisting on it," Almog told Reuters.

"It doesn't mean that Shultz supports it. He is saying we have to find all the ways to achieve the

goal of direct negotiations, including an international conference," he said.

Mr. Shamir, head of Israel's right-wing Likud bloc, leaves on Sunday for an 11-day trip in the United States. It is his first trip to Washington since swapping jobs four months ago with Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, now the foreign minister.

"There will be discussions," Almog said. "He will state clearly how he feels. An international conference means Israel would be against the whole world. It would be under pressure to withdraw from all territories, including East Jerusalem."

As prime minister in 1985, Mr. Peres advanced the idea of an international peace "forum" or "framework" that would lead to direct talks. In October of that year, parliament endorsed the concept but the coalition government had yet to act on it.

On Wednesday, the 10 cabinet ministers from Mr. Peres' Labour Party issued a statement after a meeting saying Mr. Shamir had no authority to ignore

(Continued on page 3)

U.S. considers plan to improve Jordan's defences

Administration seeks \$71.8m in aid to the Kingdom

Combined Agency dispatches

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration is considering a plan to help Jordan upgrade its fixed-base U.S. anti-aircraft weapons to a mobile system in part to stop the Kingdom from turning to the Soviet Union for arms, U.S. officials said Tuesday.

They also defended at a congressional hearing the administration's \$75.5 million aid request for Lebanon, where at least eight Americans are being held hostage and U.S. officials say there is no central authority.

"The people who want us to get out are the Islamic radical groups who are taking hostages," Roscoe Suddarth, a deputy assistant secretary of defence, told the House of Representatives Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East.

"I think it is a political statement not to cut and run."

The proposal to upgrade Jordan's improved Hawk (I-Hawk) missiles was criticised by some congressmen and was sure to draw protests from Israel, which balked at a 1985 administration plan to sell arms to Jordan.

I-Hawks are medium-range, all-weather missiles with a 40-k

Reagan refuses to order former aides to appear before Iran panel

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan who was set for a second meeting with an internal commission probing the Iran-contra affair after rejecting a request to order two central figures in the scandal to appear before the panel.

The commission, headed by John Tower, former Republican senator from Texas, is examining the workings of the National Security Council (NSC) staff, which hatched the clandestine Iran operation.

On Tuesday night the White House disclosed Sen. Tower had asked Mr. Reagan, "acting as commander in chief," to order his former National Security Adviser, Adm. John Poindexter, and an aide, Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, to appear before the panel.

The two have refused to testify to congressional committees, citing their fifth amendment protection against self-incrimination.

A White House statement said presidential counsel Peter Wallison had advised the Tower panel

it would be unlawful to order Adm. Poindexter and Col. North to appear, "because it would be in effect ordering (them) to testify against themselves."

The statement said that Mr. Wallison, in giving this response, had relied on the advice of the Pentagon's general counsel. It also emphasized that Mr. Reagan had sought — unsuccessfully — to have the two former aides testify to Congress.

The Tower panel's investigation is one of several begun after the November 1986 disclosure that profit from secret U.S. arms sales to Iran were diverted to administration-backed Nicaraguan rebels, known as contras.

In preparation for the second session with the Tower board Mr. Reagan Tuesday let the panel

study excerpts of personal notes on his daily activities.

Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the president turned over the excerpts "in the spirit of cooperation and openness" he has promised since the Iran initiative came to light.

Although Mr. Reagan insists his primary goal was to develop a relationship with moderate elements in Tehran, the White House admits there is a widespread perception "that he was trading arms for American hostages in Lebanon."

Meantime, ex-National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, a pivotal player in the Iran scandal, was said to be recovering from an overdose of tranquilizers in what police suspect was a suicide attempt.

Mr. McFarlane was taken to Bethesda Naval Hospital on Monday only two hours before he was to have testified for the second time to the Tower board.

Mr. Reagan, who has not publicly answered questions about the Iran scandal since Nov. 19, 1986, ignored the issue — and the latest hostage drama — in brief remarks Tuesday to leaders of an American Veterans' Organization.

Asked if the United States

Report calls for end to Israeli arms sales to Pretoria

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. government-appointed commission has urged President Reagan to prevent other countries from shipping U.S. arms and military technology to South Africa, and singled out Israel.

The 12-man commission, appointed by Secretary of State George Shultz to examine U.S. policies towards South Africa, said U.S. technology is crucial to Pretoria's military and Mr. Reagan must stamp out trade in it.

Mr. Reagan should "adopt measures to prevent countries such as Israel that import U.S. arms and defence material from transhipping such goods to South Africa and selling to South Africa technology and material critical to its efforts to attain military self-sufficiency," the commission's report said.

State Department Spokesman Charles Redman made no direct comment on the report's allegations that Israel supplied arms and technology to South Africa.

The investigators were operating under a U.S. request granted by a French court to look for documents possibly connected with the arms sales affair, according to sources at Le Bourget airport, who asked to remain anonymous. The search took place Monday.

The searchers were identified as Robert J. Boylan of the International Affairs Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, Robert Shwartz, an assistant to Lawrence E. Walsh, the court-appointed independent counsel in the arms sale investigation, and an unnamed FBI agent. The results of the search were not known.

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The DC-9 was heavily guarded by police during the search,

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The government had already taken action to meet objections to the "party slate" proportional representation electoral system used in 1984.

It rushed through a new election law in December modifying the rules to allow independents to run in 48 constituencies, rather than three-year life a foregone conclusion.

A court verdict on the old law's constitutionality is due on March 7 and the government evidently feared an adverse ruling.

Mr. Mubarak said last week the referendum was needed to clear the way for application of the new law in future elections.

Opposition leaders still see the law as unfair and biased towards the ruling party.

They decided to cooperate to get round one of its toughest provisions for the smaller groupings — that a party must win more than eight per cent of the total vote to take up any of its seats.

They agreed Tuesday night to bury temporarily ideological differences — the opposition parties range from Socialist to old-guard conservative — and run for election on a single party ticket, probably that of the right-wing New Wafd party.

This accord and the provision for independent candidates in some constituencies looked likely to ensure a bigger opposition in the assembly after April's expected polls.

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They decided to cooperate to get round one of its toughest provisions for the smaller groupings — that a party must win more than eight per cent of the total vote to take up any of its seats.

They agreed Tuesday night to bury temporarily ideological differences — the opposition parties range from Socialist to old-guard conservative — and run for election on a single party ticket, probably that of the right-wing New Wafd party.

This accord and the provision for independent candidates in some constituencies looked likely to ensure a bigger opposition in the assembly after April's expected polls.

The Middle East News Agency (MENA) said the opposition parties meeting took place at the headquarters of the Wafd Party, headed by Fouad Serageddin.

The investigators were operating under a U.S. request granted by a French court to look for documents possibly connected with the arms sales affair, according to sources at Le Bourget airport, who asked to remain anonymous. The search took place Monday.

The searchers were identified as Robert J. Boylan of the International Affairs Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, Robert Shwartz, an assistant to Lawrence E. Walsh, the court-appointed independent counsel in the arms sale investigation, and an unnamed FBI agent. The results of the search were not known.

Mr.

Queen Noor to visit music conservatory today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will visit the National Music Conservatory on Thursday to review the progress of its violin programme. This programme was launched with the inauguration of the National Music Conservatory on Oct. 3, 1986 by the Nonn Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the Jordan Society in Washington D.C. On Thursday, upon the completion of the first phase of the violin programme, Her Majesty will be briefed about its development, progress and future prospects.

During her visit, Her Majesty will attend a violin group lesson with the conservatory's two Jordanian instructors and 40 students who will also treat Her Majesty to a performance of two pieces. These will be "Dance Joesy" and "Hoe Down."

Conducting the group lesson and the performance will be Mrs. Sheila Johnson — the U.S. music instructor who has developed the successful new violin teaching method — the Rolland Pedagogy — which is being applied at the

conservatory. This method stresses proper balance and control through natural body movement and enjoyable learning environments. It is being used in instructing string players in a number of music programme in England, Switzerland and the USA.

Mrs. Johnson, who has also assisted with the establishment and inauguration of the violin programme here in Jordan, is currently visiting the conservatory to evaluate the progress being made by its 40 students and to recruit and train new violin instructors to accommodate the conservatory's immediate plans to increase its student enrollment.

The National Music Conservatory is also planning to launch its viola and cello and theory programmes by September 1987 as another step towards reaching its ultimate goal to offer instruction to talented Jordanian youngsters aged 6-18 in a variety of eastern and western orchestral instruments.

Rifai to brief deputies on Kuwait summit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai will today brief a closed Lower House of Parliament session on the outcome of both the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting held in Kuwait last month and His Majesty King Hussein's recent visits to France, Italy and the Vatican.

Mr. Rifai, the deputies and the House's foreign affairs committee will also discuss the recent political developments in the region.

Spanish archaeologists begin excavation work at Jerash

AMMAN (Petra) — A Spanish archaeological team has embarked on an excavation season within the Greco-Roman city of Jerash to complete the excavation work, the department will embark on restoration work and will re-construct some parts of the building in accordance with a plan worked out in 1981.

King returns after talks in Damascus on Lebanon

(Continued from page 1)

efforts aimed at serving their common goals.

In addition to attending expanded talks between the King and President Assad, senior officials from both countries held discussions on bilateral relations and cooperation.

Mr. Rifai held a round of talks with his Syrian counterpart Abdul Raouf Al Kasm on Tuesday. On Wednesday, he met with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Haim Khaddam and discussed means to bolster bilateral relations.

The prime minister also held a second round of talks with Dr. Kasm on Wednesday.

The Jordanian side to the talks

included Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Jordanian Ambassador to Syria Ali Khreis. On the Syrian side the talks were attended by Deputy Prime Minister Salim Yassin and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharabi. The discussions focused on means to further bolster trade and economic ties between Jordan and Syria, Petra said.

President Assad hosted a dinner on Tuesday night in honour of the King and the delegation accompanying him. It was attended by Syrian Vice-President Mohammad Zuheir Masharqa, Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas and cabinet members in

King visits Swaredahab after successful heart surgery

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday evening visited Field Marshal Abdul Rahim Swaredahab, former head of the military council of Sudan, who underwent successful open heart surgery, at the King Hussein Medical Centre. During his visit, the King enquired about Field Marshal Swaredahab's health and wished him a speedy recovery.

Accompanying the King on the visit were Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Lieutenant-General Dr. Daoud Hanania, director of the Armed Forces Royal Medical Services, and senior heart specialists working for the Royal Medical Services.

Field Marshal Swaredahab was resting after the operation and his condition was described as very satisfactory by chief cardiologist at the centre, Dr. Youssef Qousi. Dr. Qousi told the Jordan Times that Field Marshal Swaredahab had a high grade obstruction in the left anterior descending coronary artery which came to light following a general medical check-up he underwent earlier at the King Hussein Medical Centre. Field Marshal Swaredahab underwent a coronary by-pass surgery conducted by a team of heart surgeons headed by Dr. Hanania and his condition was very satisfactory, Dr. Qousi said. He added that Field Marshal

Swaredahab could be discharged in a week's time from now, Dr. Hanania added.

King Hussein made a telephone call on Wednesday morning from Damascus, where he was on a visit for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, in order to enquire about Field Marshal Swaredahab.

Prince Hassan visits heart centre

Also, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan visited the Queen Alia Heart Centre to be assured about Field Marshal Swaredahab's health after the operation and the Crown Prince wished him speedy recovery.

Dr. Hanania said that such heart operations are frequently conducted at the centre and indicate a total of 6,500 open heart operations have been successfully carried out here.

Municipal teams check hygiene standards at dairy stores

AMMAN (Petra) — Teams from the Greater Amman Municipality have embarked on an intensive campaign to ensure that stores which deal with processing and selling milk products, especially white cheese, are abiding by sanitary and health regulations.

He called on proprietors of food stores to ensure that they abide by regulations concerning hygiene and sanitary conditions.

He said that a rise in food poisoning cases are often reported during this season as local milk and dairy production increases around this time.

Dudin, UNRWA officials discuss agency's services to refugees

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputy Commissioner of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Mr. Robert Dillon on Wednesday praised existing cooperation between the agency and Jordan and the Kingdom's endeavours to help UNRWA carry out its mission and offer services to Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Dillon, who was speaking during a meeting here with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin, also voiced appreciation for Jordan's efforts to persuade donor nations

to increase their contributions to UNRWA to enable it to shoulder its various responsibilities.

At the meeting, which was attended by UNRWA Director in Jordan El-Saaf, Mr. Dillon spoke about UNRWA's medium-range plans for the coming three years. The implementation of this plan, he said, requires more contributions from donor countries and also contributions from other non-donor nations.

UNRWA will continue to hold contacts with different world nations urging them to contribute

generously to help the agency carry out its programmes and honour its commitments, Mr. Dillon said. The minister and the UNRWA officials discussed the agency's financial situation, its general budget and the services it offers to Palestinian refugees.

Mr. Dudin said that the Jordanian government will continue to extend all possible assistance to UNRWA to help it implement its plans.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Ahmad Qatanani, under-secretary of the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs.

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Later, the minister inspected the police and civil defence departments and visited the passport and civil registration offices where he was briefed on the services they offer to the public.

U.S. studying plan to improve Jordan's defences

(Continued from page 1)

for Jordan and \$7 million for Jordan's West Bank/Gaza development programme. The ESF will be used to support highlands agriculture, water, sewerage services, health and projects which support Jordan's private sector as the central "engine for development."

According to Robert Bell, deputy assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East, U.S. Agency for International Development, "we will be working with Jordan's public sector to create a more favourable policy environment for the private sector."

The \$7 million for the West Bank and Gaza will be used to support a variety of projects in education, agriculture and industry.

The administration's request for funds for a Middle East regional programme totals \$20 million with \$12 million in grants for the West Bank and Gaza. Another \$5 million is sought for Israeli and Egyptian joint scientific and technical projects. \$1 million is sought for population programmes, legal training, project design and evaluation in the Middle East and South Asia by AID for multi-country development programmes.

Finally, \$2 million is sought for the American University of Beirut "to preserve, we believe, an important U.S. institution in the Middle East," according to Mr. Sudarshan.

Mr. Pelletreau told the house committee that Jordan already had permitted a "small number of Soviet advisers" to remain in the Kingdom to help maintain previously purchased Soviet-made missiles and anti-aircraft guns.

Mr. Pelletreau said officials were seeking a way to improve Jordanian defences without provoking rejection from Congress.

He said the Reagan administration already had decided to sell Jordan 100 copperhead guided anti-tank shells which do not require congressional approval.

But without more significant help, he said, Jordan would have to turn elsewhere for much need improvements to its defences, and the most likely supplier would be the Soviet Union.

In the face of an overwhelming pro-Israel U.S. Congress last year, Mr. Reagan withdrew a proposed \$1.9-billion arms sale to Jordan including F-16 or F-20 jet fighter planes, armoured personnel carriers and Hawk and Stinger anti-aircraft missiles.

French President Francois Mitterrand has asked his government to organise immediate medical and food aid for the Palestinians trapped in Beirut's refugee camps, a spokeswoman said in Paris.

Earlier PLO communiques said "a real hunger crisis" gripped the Bourj Al Barajneh population.

Referring to the congressional opposition, Mr. Pelletreau said, "We're just not in a position to

provide" Jordan with sophisticated warplanes or more advanced missiles.

Mr. Pelletreau said the administration was studying whether there is a way to change the basis of the deployment of the Hawks, which the United States required to be fixed in silos to meet the central "engine for development."

Jordan has an obsolescent defence ... with the Hawks locked in concrete," he said.

The missiles, designed to be mobile, were put in silos in the mid-1970s so that they only be used to defend against an attack from the north but could not be used against an attack from the west.

"Those sites have become more and more vulnerable, they are moving close and close to being sitting ducks," Mr. Pelletreau said.

There are 14 batteries of the missiles, and U.S. officials estimated it would cost \$50 million to disperse them adequately, he said. The administration is proposing \$52 million in military aid for Jordan next year, but has not yet decided how it should be spent, he said.

Mr. Pelletreau said Jordan bought the Soviet weapons — SAM-8, SAM-13 and SAM-14 surface-to-air missiles and ZSU-23 anti-aircraft guns — on occasions when the United States previously refused to sell the Kingdom arms.

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Jordan, India agree to operate direct air link

Indian civil aviation minister leaves after delivering message to King from Gandhi

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The message was delivered by Indian Minister of Civil Aviation Mr. Jagdish Tytler, who was in Amman holding talks with Jordanian officials on launching a direct air link between India and Jordan.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakhaqan and Indian Ambassador to Jordan Gurcharan Singh.

The audience followed the signing of a memorandum of understanding aimed at bolstering bilateral cooperation in air transport operations between the two countries.

After the signing of the memorandum the Indian minister

left for home.

Flights between Jordan and India are at present routed through Gulf countries and a direct link would enable Jordan to share the traffic of an estimated 10,000 Indian Christians who travel each year to the Israeli occupied West Bank to visit the holy places there. In addition, there are an estimated 4,000 Indians, mainly labourers employed in Jordan. It is also expected that Jordanians studying in Indian universities will benefit from direct flights which will eliminate lengthy stays in the Gulf.

The Indian delegation included: Mr. V. Patnayak, joint secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Dr. S. Bhat, director of information and regulations of the directorate-general of civil aviation, as well as several other senior officials.

EC gives assistance to faculty of engineering

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) and Jordan on Wednesday signed an agreement under which the EC will grant the University of Jordan two million European Currency Units (ECU), nearly \$2.25 million.

The first agreement will be for financing the Awassi sheep improvement project for \$2.35 million, and the other will be for the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Jordan.

An EC spokesman said that the grant is part of 19 million ECU grant to Jordan, promised by the EC to help the country carry out various development projects.

The EC pledged to provide the grant under an agreement both

Muasher addresses Arab economic, social council

Riyadh (Agencies) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher on Wednesday underlined the importance of promoting trade among Arab countries and the need to boost inter-Arab economic cooperation. The minister was addressing a meeting of the Arab League Economic and Social Council which opened in the Saudi Arabian capital on Wednesday.

Dr. Muasher said the current meeting was important because it was scheduled to tackle inter-Arab trade, particularly during this critical economic stage. The minister expressed hope that the two-day meeting, which is being attended by Arab economy, finance and trade ministers, would arrive at successful results.

Saudi Arabian Finance and National Economy Minister Mohammed Ali Abul Khail told the meeting that trade between Arab states was declining. He said exports between Arab

countries from 1980 to 1984 averaged only 5.2 per cent of their total world exports while inter-Arab imports accounted for about 11 per cent.

Raw materials constituted 95 per cent of total Arab exports in 1984 while industrial goods accounted for 74 per cent of total Arab imports during the same year.

"This is a pointer now for Arab states to develop their economies," Mr. Abul Khail said.

He called for effective measures to boost Arab trade by implementing an agreement to this effect endorsed by Alesco three years ago.

Inaugurating the session, Saudi Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz said his country had always sought to expand Arab trade and the council should exert more efforts to this end.

Oil company to sponsor new dig at Ain Ghazal

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A foreign oil firm operating in Jordan has announced that it plans a major season of archaeological excavations at the Stone Age village of Ain Ghazal where work is expected to resume next June.

According to a press release issued on Wednesday by the Natural Resources Authority (Amoco) undertook to be a "major sponsor" of the Ain Ghazal archaeological project. The release did not disclose the volume or type of assistance the company was contemplating.

Amoco, a leading American oil company, is currently exploring for crude oil in several regions in the Kingdom under a concession agreement signed with the government.

REQUIEM

A requiem will be held for the elapse of 6 months since the passing away of

Mrs. Adi Pattermann Sawalha, wife of Ghaleb "Mike" Salim Sawalha.

The requiem will be held at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 13, 1987 at the Virgin Mary of Nazareth Church, Swieifieh in Amman. The family of the late Mrs

'Amerika' angers right, left, U.N., Moscow and advertisers

By Steve James
Reuter

NEW YORK — "Amerika," a television movie about life in the United States under Soviet occupation, has upset the Kremlin, the United Nations, women's groups and both the U.S. political right and left — and it has yet to be broadcast.

Last week the show's largest single sponsor, the Chrysler Corporation, withdrew its planned advertising — an estimated \$5 million worth — and other advertisers appear reluctant to be associated with the show.

The 14½-hour, seven-part "mini-series" is the longest ever produced for television.

TASS, the official Soviet news agency, called it "deliberate psychological warfare" and the United Nations is incensed by what it says is an unfair portrayal of U.N. peacekeeping forces. Feminist groups do not like its portrayal of women as weak and treacherous.

The ABC network, which has invested \$3 million in the project, declared it would go ahead with the series despite the pullout of Chrysler.

It said the series, starring Kris Kristofferson, Maril Hemingway, Robert Urich and Christine Lahti, would run on schedule starting on February 15 "because we believe in the programme and will air it irrespective of economic pressure."

The series could top the controversy of "Roots," "Holocaust" and "The Day After," which forced millions of viewers

to come to terms with such issues as black slavery, the Nazis and nuclear war.

"The Day After," a film about a nuclear attack on the United States, was aired three years ago, sparking some criticism that it was pro-Soviet. There has been speculation that "Amerika" was ABC's way of redressing the balance.

Brandon Stoddard, ABC's president for entertainment, acknowledged the idea for "Amerika" grew from "The Day After."

"In many ways it is very much like 'The Day After,'" Stoddard said. "That was about a bunch of people and how they lived after a nuclear holocaust. This is about a bunch of people and how they live 10 years after a Russian

invasion. It's about how Americans behave, what happens to their families, their jobs, their futures and what they are going to do about it."

However, conservative groups have lambasted it for showing a less than beautiful America. The Soviet Union, they say, is shown in too good a light and Americans appear too weak.

Liberals, on the other hand, don't like it because they argue it helps to fan the kind of anti-Soviet feelings common to the cold war years and revived recently in such movies as "Rambo," "Rocky" and "Red Dawn," which also dealt with a United States under Soviet rule.

Chrysler chairman Lee Iacocca withdrew his company's backing after deciding that scenes of

American passivity in the face of aggression by Soviet and International forces was inconsistent with his firm's upbeat patriotic advertising.

According to the ABC synopsis, America 10 years after Soviet occupation is ruled by a puppet regime in the White House manipulated by the KGB. In the once-prosperous U.S. heartland, people stand in line for food.

The country is patrolled by forces of the United Nations special service unit — known as SS — who set fire to houses, run over innocent people with tanks and rape women.

Disidents are held in prison camps, propaganda is taught in schools and Lenin is hailed alongside Abraham Lincoln as a great leader. Kristofferson plays a rebel who manages to raise a ragtag resistance movement.

"If I didn't know anything about this movie, my guess is I would probably have a knee-jerk reaction against the premise," said Donald Wrye, writer, director and producer of "Amerika."

"If this script has a political theme, it says that democracy depends on an individual's capacity to exercise the responsibility of democracy."

Ironically, both right and left-wing watchdogs of U.S. television — the liberal fairness and accuracy in reporting (FAIR) and the conservative accuracy in media (AIM) — are united in their outrage.

"The mini-series gives credibility to two cardinal obsessions of the radical right — the idea that

the Soviets are capable of conquering the U.S. and the idea that the United Nations is a Soviet puppet," said FAIR's Jeff Cohen.

AIM's Reed Irvine objects because "they took what was a very well-conceived project and turned it into a show about a very benign occupation, with some very nice KGB officers."

Several peace groups, although not asking ABC to take the show off the air, have persuaded local stations to devote air time for discussion of the issues. So far, ABC has not agreed.

"We wish people would wait until they've seen the programme before they criticise it," said ABC spokesman Thomas Mackin.

This week, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda attacked the show but carried an interview with Bob Wright, vice president of ABC's public liaison office.

"'Amerika' is a film about Americans and for Americans," he said in the interview. "Its main idea is to try to examine ... what the daily life of the inhabitants of our country would be like if they fell under the yoke of a totalitarian system and were deprived of the democratic privileges which today's society gives them."

In reply, Pravda blasted

"Amerika" as a provocation and said such films could only sow strife. Referring to Wright's comment on totalitarianism, it added: "Such an idea of our country can generate only enmity towards the Soviet people."

Randa Habib's

Setting the style

TWO Iraqi women have demonstrated last week in Amman a lot of courage, vivid imagination, and a great deal of energy.

Works of art made of Iraqi-made fabrics, designed by a professionally trained designer, Souha Bakri, and a famous artist Nohra Radi, and executed by artisans in various parts of Iraq, were on display last week. The group belong to Iraq's Dar Tasneem (fashion house).

The most interesting aspect of this project, born in a country at war, is the fact that it involves Iraqi village women in the work and employs national Iraqi fabrics and colours.

This is exactly what we need in Jordan. In fact, we have the capability of producing national dresses because people have been doing them for ages. Some Jordanian designers have even improved the classical bedouin and village dresses by applying modern trends and techniques, and Jordanian and foreign ladies have found that wearing traditional dresses is both enjoyable and elegant. We have weavers in Jordan, we have some promising and interesting designers and we also have a great number of women who embroider with great efficiency.

Someone or some association should take the initiative of harmonising all this in order to make it useful and beneficial for the people and the country. Other items from handkerchiefs to hand-made shoes, or embroidered towels and bed-sheets should be made locally.

Let us enter the world of fashion. Let us produce local fashions that we could be proud of. That would carry the name of Jordan, the touch of Jordan and the colours of Jordan to the world.

Controversial strip cartoon on nuclear war made into film

By Alan Elsner

Reuter

LONDON — A strip-cartoon book telling of the story of how a bewildered elderly couple try to cope with the aftermath of a nuclear attack scored an unexpected critical and commercial success five years ago — now it has been made into a full-length animated film.

"Who the Wind Blows," based on the book by British illustrator Raymond Briggs, opened in London recently, with the voices of the characters provided by two doyens of the English stage, Dame Peggy Ashcroft and Sir John Mills.

Briggs, 53, woo his reputation as an illustrator of children's stories. One of his best-known, "The Snowman," has been made into a highly successful cartoon film.

He says the naive British couple in "Who the Wind Blows," who try uncomprehendingly to cope with the fallout from a nuclear war before dying a miserable and lonely death, were modelled on his parents.

"Jim and Hilda Bloggs are respectable working class. Hilda's got pretensions like my mum," Briggs said in a recent interview.

Briggs extracts considerable humour from the couple's vain attempt to relate the approaching holocaust to their pleasant memories of how Britons pulled together to overcome the rigours of World War II.

When Jim, bearing on the radio that war is imminent, says "blimey", Hilda is quick to chide him for bad language. When the three minute warning is sounded, she says: "I'll just get the washing in."

Faithfully following the instructions of government civil defence leaflets, Jim constructs an "inner core or refuge" out of doors propped against the wall and cushions.

The bomb falls. They wait for someone to send help or tell them what to do. Outside is silence, a blasted landscape. They get headaches, then they are sick and have diarrhoea. Their gums bleed. Finally, they die mummified prayers and lines from Tennyson's poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade."

The book sold 40,000 copies within two months of publication and immediately set off a political controversy, with some members of the ruling Conservative Party condemning it as defeatist and

unpatriotic.

"It is a subtle and pernicious piece of anti-nuclear propaganda, well aimed to induce irrational fear and panic," said Conservative parliamentarian Stephen Hastings.

In 1984, publication of another strip cartoon book, attacking Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for launching the 1982 war against Argentina to regain the Falkland Islands, won him more opprobrium from the Conservatives.

"The tin pot foreign general and the old iron woman" depicted the British prime minister as a grotesque figure with a pair of giant breasts which doubled as exploding cannons.

"When the Wind Blows," reprinted every year since 1982, was adapted for radio in 1983. A stage version toured several countries after a successful run in a London theatre.

The film is directed by Jimmy Murakami, an American of Japanese parentage who lost a relative in the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. It took over two years of work by over 100 animators, drawing 190,000 frames at a cost of £2 million (\$3 million).

Both Mills, 78, and Ashcroft, 79, have testified to the emotional power, generated by their two short dumpy characters.

"We were roaring with laughter at the beginning, and by the end we were shattered. It's amazing how those little cartoon characters got every expression and feeling," said Ashcroft.

"This film is going to have tremendous visual impact," said Mills.

Briggs originally said the book was not intended as an anti-nuclear tract, but has since joined the campaign for nuclear disarmament and become increasingly politically outspoken.

Members of the Families for Defence Group yelled "Jim and Hilda are safe with NATO" outside the London cinema where the film premiered this week.

Critics were generally favourable. The Guardian reviewer said: "The film achieves the extraordinary feat of allowing us much gentle amusement on the way to its icy conclusion, and it does this without seeming to patronise its characters unduly."

But a review in "The Independent" said that although the characters were sympathetic, the film's simplicity was irritating.

Dr. Esin Atil amid exhibits on the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent in Washington

Turkish treasures tour United States

By Bruce Russell
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Turkey has sent the United States a display of cultural treasures not seen outside fabled Topkapi Palace in 20 years.

Jewelled armour, books, clothes and rugs dating from the 16th-century reign of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent, are on display at Washington's National Gallery of Art from January 25.

The exhibition follows crowd-pulling shows there last year of art from Britain's country houses, the Soviet Union's top museums and the French impressionist collections of Europe.

The Turkish show will also appear in Chicago in June and New York in October, coordinated with tours by Turkish folk dancers and musicians and exhibits of Turkish architecture, carpets, contemporary arts and fashions.

"Among all of America's principal allies, Turkey is surely the least known," Sukru Elekcioglu, Turkey's ambassador in Washington, said in announcing the exhibition recently.

"These events provide an unprecedented opportunity to expose Americans to the artistic and cultural achievements of the Ottoman empire, and also to the rich diversity of the modern Turkish republic, heir to the cultural magnificence of the Ottoman past."

The 210 items on display include Suleyman's golden portable throne, gem-encrusted helmets, swords and jugs, richly decorated books and scrolls, oriental rugs, and the colourful kafans or robes the sultan wore.

Some scholars criticised practices such as artificial insemination, womb-renting, abortion and mercy killing. One said the world was moving towards introduction of medicines free of alcohol, in line with Islam's ban on alcoholic drinks.

The Ottoman empire is the only one that stretched from the western part of modern Iran, northward to Austria and westward to the borders of Morocco," Atil told Reuters.

"The art produced during the Ottoman period clearly reflects the extent and the wealth of the

sultan's court and art works and the fourth was where his harem was quartered. It is now a museum.

The Turks placed a ban on art works travelling 20 years ago after art objects loaned to a cultural exhibit in Istanbul were burned in a fire which authorities said was set by anarchists.

"The Turkish authorities then felt that objects were best preserved in their own institutions and should not go from one building to another," said Atil.

She was among those who worked to persuade the Turkish authorities to lift the ban.

In Washington, the exhibit will be displayed in four consecutive galleries — like the four courtyards of Topkapi — specially

constructed within the walls of the modernistic National Gallery east wing on its central Hall.

The first gallery will deal with Suleyman's administration, the second with Ottoman weapons, armour and illustrated histories of the sultan's victories, the third with arts and poetry, and the fourth with the splendours of the court.

"This last gallery shows why the Ottoman empire had such a great reputation in Europe as the wealthiest and most splendid court in the world," Atil says.

In a recreation of a ceremonial event in the courtroom, the kafans of the sultan's courtiers will be arrayed in an upright position around a precious metal inlaid portable throne that Suleyman took on his campaigns and hunting exhibitions.

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Edberg tested by unseeded student in U.S. indoor tennis

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) — Sweden's Stefan Edberg, the no. 2 ranked player in the world, held off a determined American student to take a 7-6, 2-6, 6-4 victory at the U.S. Indoor Tennis Championships.

"He played well. I was a little surprised," Edberg said after his match Tuesday night with Ritchie Reneberg, an amateur ranked 340th internationally, to take the second set.

"I lost my concentration in the second set for a while," Edberg said. "I played very well and he missed some easy shots," Stenlund said after the match.

The victory sends Stenlund to a third-round contest with no. 10 seed Kevin Curren of the United States, who ended the second round with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over Claudio Panatta of Italy.

No. 4 seed Brad Gilbert of the United States moved to the third round with a 6-1, 6-3, defeat of compatriot John Sadri.

Unseeded Greg Holmes of the United States staged a second-round upset with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 victory over fellow countryman, no. 12 seed Aaron Kirkstein.

No. 14 seed Eric Jelen opened the second-round play with a quick 6-3, 6-1 victory over Jaime Zaya of Peru.

The \$315,000 U.S. indoor began Monday at the Racquet Club of Memphis and runs through Sunday.

In continuing first-round play,

Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union defeated Christo Steyn of South Africa 6-3, 6-2 to gain a second-round match with no. 2 seed Jimmy Connors.

Daine Visser of South Africa held on in a hard-fought match to defeat Jimmy Arias of the United States 7-6, 7-6, with tie-breakers of 7-4 and 9-7.

The victory puts Visser in second-round play against no. 9 seed Jonas Svensson of Sweden.

Sergio Casal of Spain defeated Mel Purcell of Atlanta 6-3, 2-6, 6-3, while Terry Moor of Memphis beat Kelly Jones of San Diego 6-2, 3-6, 7-5.

Tournament director Tom Buford said Connors, no. 3 seed Mikael Pernfors and no. 5 seed John McEnroe would play their first games Wednesday evening.

Edberg, two-time winner and defending champion of the Australian Open, won the U.S. indoor in 1985 and lost the finals last year to Gilbert.

Connors has won the U.S. indoor a record seven times and McEnroe won it in 1980, his last appearance at the championships.

NBA roundup

Dallas Mavericks defeat Portland

NEW YORK (AP) — Mark Aguirre and Rolando Blackman, who played for the victorious West team in Sunday's NBA All-Star Game in Seattle, took their all-star show home to Dallas.

Aguirre scored 34 points to lead the Mavericks to a 135-115 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers Tuesday night. Blackman scored 28 points as the Mavericks increased their lead to three games over Utah, which lost to Phoenix 102-98.

Sam Perkins had 21 points for Dallas, while Steve Johnson with 27 and Kiki Vandeweghe with 23 led Portland.

Elsewhere, it was Houston 115, San Antonio 92; Boston 119, Denver 105; the Los Angeles Lakers 114, Sacramento 98; Atlanta 125, Seattle 113; Chicago 104, Philadelphia 99; Indiana 126, Golden State 125 in overtime; Cleveland 100, New York 95.

Suns 102, Jazz 98

Larry Nance scored 30 points, including a pair of free throws with 10 seconds remaining, to spark Phoenix. Nance also pulled down 21 rebounds and handed out five assists while Walter Davis added 21 points. Karl Malone led Utah with 26.

Rockets 115, Spurs 92

Akeem Olajuwon scored 25

points despite sitting out the fourth quarter as Houston snapped San Antonio's seven-game winning streak.

Olajuwon blocked six shots and grabbed seven rebounds while Rodney McRae scored 23 points and had eight assists and Jim Petersen had 19 points and 12 rebounds.

Celtics 119, Nuggets 105

Kevin McHale scored 36 points and grabbed 14 rebounds as the Celtics won in Denver for the first time in three years. Robert Parish had 22 points and Larry Bird 18 for the Celtics. Alex English topped Denver with 31.

Pacers 126, Warriors 125

Michael Jordan scored 29 points after being held to six in the first half, but Chicago needed a layup and free throw by Gene Banks with less than two minutes remaining to hold off Philadelphia.

Philadelphia's Julius Erving had a game-high 30 points.

Knicks 98, Suns 96

Rookie Chuck Person made a 3-point field goal with nine seconds remaining in overtime for the last of his 28 points.

John Long was a leading scorer with 36 points for the Pacers, including six in overtime. Eric Floyd and Joe Barry Carroll each had 35 for Golden State.

Cavaliers 100, Knicks 95

Ron Harper led Cleveland with 25 points, although he scored only one second-half field goal. Gerald Wilkins had 25 for the Knicks, who scored the game's first seven points and led by 13 early in the second quarter.

Warriors 100, Knicks 95

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Dominique Wilkins scored 46 points, including four free throws in a decisive 10-2 fourth-period burst, as Atlanta snapped a six-game road losing streak and Seattle's seven-game home winning

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.		
One sterling	1.5240/50	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3365/70	Canadian dollar
1.8155/65		West German marks
2.0480/90		Dutch guilders
1.5352/62		Swiss francs
37.50/55		Belgian francs
6.0425/75		French francs
1291/1292		Italian lire
153.20/30		Japanese yen
6.4875/4925		Swedish crowns
6.9900/50		Norwegian crowns
6.8500/50		Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	402.60/403.10	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Shares advanced afresh on revived buying after Tuesday's shakeout but closings were off best levels. At 1530 GMT, the FTSE 100 share was up 19.6 to 1,394.5, having touched a high of 1,304.1.

Dealers said that the renewed strength of the market reflected investor confidence that first time dealings in British Airways would get off to a strong start. In the event, British Airways made its debut at around 119p compared with the part paid value of 65p and closed at 110p. It was the most actively traded issue on turnover of almost 197 million shares.

Dealers said the market moved ahead in earlier trading on a perception that Tuesday's declines were overdone. Better than expected results from Amstrad, a sharp rise in British Aerospace and renewed demand for the internationals took prices further ahead towards midsession.

However, the higher levels failed to attract much follow through and the wider market began to tail back, gaining little support from the weak early showing on Wall Street.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Only by using your charm to the greatest possible advantage will you overcome today's tendency to get involved in the negative factors of your activity.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Some talent you possess requires a new inspiration before you can use it to your advantage.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) It would be wise to absent yourself from home today. Have guests in tonight and show you are an excellent host.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Go over any writings and be careful of what you say. Much care in driving is advised.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Do nothing that can ruin your bank account. Budget your assets wisely.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Try to get a point across to another, but don't be surprised if you meet with a lot of resistance.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Be tactful if you want to get out of some responsibility that irks you. Set up a new plan of action.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) A thoughtless person could give you trouble during the daytime if you permit, but later you can be happy.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Take care you do not lose prestige in public, or at work, by some foolish actions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) If you try to keep a promise you will be confused. Your mate can be helpful.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You can make long-term plans with a close friend today. Be clever and cooperative for best results.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Plan how best to get an associate to understand your views. Don't attempt public matters today.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You may not be content with your environment, but don't make any changes yet. A prominent person is supportive now.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be tested early, so give him training in ethics so that your progeny can handle whatever comes up intelligently. Upon reaching maturity life will be much easier and there will be more money to do with as he, or she, likes. Be sure to give praise when earned.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 13, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Today brings all sorts of opportunities with the full moon. Combine your most conservative and unconventional ideas into a plan that represents both schools of thought.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Contact the most interesting friends you have and gain their suggestions for advancing your ideas.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get in touch with prominent people who can show you the most modern ways to handle your concerns.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Discuss your new ideas with partners and show your finest talents for excellent results now.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Some special thought for your mate can bring more appreciation for your talents.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Show more appreciation for the talents of those who seem to be a bit bizarre and unusual.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Try to expand in your worldly affairs. You have inspired ideas and your co-workers go along with you now.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get into activities that can bring you the greatest amount of happiness, whether in business or in pleasure.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Discuss your ideas with family ties. Have guests in and treat them nicely. They can be helpful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Be more enthused in communicating with others and get better results and added benefits.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Use progressive methods to make your home more attractive and comfortable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You are full of energy and have excellent ideas that will spur you on to accomplish great deal.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You can quietly make a plan that can bring you greater success in the future. Do whatever will please your mate.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one of those delightful young persons who will be very capable in any New Era outlet, so be sure to send this one to modern schools where advanced subjects will be taught. Your progeny will not be like most others, but don't try to change this.

Saudi French Bank reports lower profit

JEDDAH (R) — Saudi French Bank Wednesday reported a 14 per cent dip in 1986 net profits as a slowdown in the Saudi Arabian economy and the need to increase provisions for bad and doubtful loans cut into earnings.

Managing Director Yves Max told Reuters the bank had a net profit of 94.9 million riyals (\$25.3 million), compared with 110.4 million (\$29.4 million) in 1985.

The bank, officially Al Bank Al Saudi Al Frans, is the first of the kingdom's 11 commercial banks to publish 1986 earnings.

which are generally expected to show a decline.

Mr. Max said Saudi French's smaller profit was caused by a drop in commercial activity in the Saudi economy and a rise to 138.0 million riyals (\$36.8 million), in the amount set aside for bad and doubtful loans, from 75.5 million (\$20.1 million) in 1985.

"All the banks (in Saudi Arabia) considerably increased their provisions last year and, as results appear this year, I think they will show the same," he said.

The slowdown in the Saudi economy came as world oil prices tumbled. This imposed a severe strain on the private sector and a number of companies were unable to repay bank loans.

Saudi French, owned 60 per cent by Saudi nationals and 40 per cent by Banque Indosuez, said assets at the end of 1986 rose to 14.88 billion riyals (\$3.97 billion) from 13.72 billion (\$3.66 billion) a year earlier.

Despite the decline in net profit, Mr. Max said: "I feel rather

satisfied under the general circumstances."

He said there should be a gradual improvement in the economy if oil prices and Saudi Arabia's budget plans were stable over the next few years.

"Provisions may follow the same trend," he said. "I hope we have reached the worst and now maybe have reached a normal level. In such a case, the banks will be able to keep control over the situation and cover any bad loans that may develop."

Romanian energy crisis deepens

BELGRADE (R) — Romania has applied severe new restrictions on the use of fuel and power in a sign that the communist country's protracted winter energy crisis is biting deeper, according to Western diplomats contacted in Bucharest.

They said Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu had issued a decree, published in newspapers this week, reinforcing already tough restrictions on energy consumption.

The limits mean Romanians would be able to use hardly any domestic appliances and, as one diplomat said, "they probably won't even be able to press their trousers."

The decree orders a 20 per cent cut in power consumption by households and a 30 per cent cut by organisations not involved in industrial production.

Extremely low quotas have been set for electricity use in domestic households, already suffering from no heating, low gas pressure and long power cuts.

The new regulations will bring added hardship as food shortages persist throughout the country, with much of Romania's food production exported to pay off its foreign debts.

Under the decree a two-person home in the city is allowed only 30 kilowatt hours of electricity per month, and a similar home in the countryside is allowed only 20 kilowatt hours.

A home of three to four persons is allowed 47 kilowatt hours in the city and 33 in the countryside. Excesses will be fined.

People will be charged from 30 to 400 per cent more for each extra kilowatt hour of electricity they use, and from 50 to 300 per cent more for each extra cubic metre of gas.

People who exceed gas quotas by more than 10 per cent will have their supply cut off completely.

A family of three to four persons living in a three-room flat is allowed no more than 261 cubic metres of gas in February for its

heating, hot water and cooking. Diplomats said a family of this size would normally consume at least 1,000 cubic metres in a winter month.

They said newspapers had carried explanations to educate people on how much power is used by domestic appliances.

For example, a Romanian electric iron would use one kilowatt of power per hour of ironing.

"People won't be pressing their trousers. In fact, they probably won't use many appliances at all," a diplomat said.

The rules are expected to remain in force during March.

Private cars have already been banned from the streets in Romania this winter, and blackouts of six hours or more have been agreed to meet future demand for steel products in the Arab World. The project is likely to take several years to complete, according to officials. With the exception of Egypt, all the countries involved in the proposal are members of OPEC.

Four Arab states plan to set up joint steel plant

BAGHDAD (OPECNA) — Four Arab countries — Iraq, Algeria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt — are planning to set up a joint steel plant with an annual production capacity of 120,000 tonnes.

Feasibility studies for the venture were discussed at a recent meeting here sponsored by the Baghdad-based Arab Industrial Development Organisation (AIDO) and the Algiers-based Arab Iron and Steel Federation.

It was agreed that such a plant was needed to meet future demand for steel products in the Arab World.

The project is likely to take several years to complete, according to officials. With the exception of Egypt, all the countries involved in the proposal are members of OPEC.

Vatican orders spending freeze

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican, troubled by a budget deficit that was expected to reach \$36 million last year, has ordered a spending freeze for 1987, Vatican officials said Wednesday.

A letter sent to department heads by Cardinal Agostino Rossi, head of the administration of the patrimony of the Holy See, said the 1987 budget has not yet been approved so spending must be confined to the 1986 limits, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

However, a special commission of cardinals appointed by Pope John Paul II in 1981 to study the Vatican's financial problems is expected to meet here in March and a new budget could be approved at that time.

Last October, the Vatican forecast a record budget deficit of \$56 million for 1986, although the actual figure has not been released.

The Vatican said at the time that it was operating under an austerity budget that could not be trimmed further, that its financial patrimony was being steadily eroded and as a consequence there was an urgent need for help from Roman Catholics around the world.

The budget covers expenses for the Curia, or the church's central administration, the church's diplomatic missions and the Vatican's radio station and daily newspaper.

Lebanese lira breaks through 'starvation barrier'

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese pound, once the strongest currency in the Middle East, crashed through the 100-level Wednesday to close at a new low of 102.00/104.00 to the dollar.

Authorities last month introduced a series of austerity measures to tackle the country's rising import bill and a widening state budget deficit fuelled by the pound's fall.

The central bank tightened regulations on a compulsory treasury bill purchase scheme to cover the government budget deficit and has banned trading in the Lebanese pound on Gulf and European accounts to curb speculation.

It also imposed a solvency ratio on all commercial banks operating in Lebanon. Bank capital must in future cover three per cent of liabilities, letters of credit and guarantees.

Bankers said they doubted if the measures would work. "We support most of the moves, but I don't think they tackle the root of the issue and that's political," one banker told Reuters.

Local newspapers have carried reports of families offering their children for sale because they could no longer afford to feed or educate them.

"We will have to get used to one meal a day, and without any meat," said one Christian east Beirut resident.

But there are signs a tiny elite still enjoys the good life. Restaurants are packed and the latest models of European and U.S. cars can still be seen on Beirut's streets.

The economic crisis has spawned innumerable tales of growing resentment of the "haves-not" for "haves".

"A butcher told me he was serving a customer who was given scraps of meat every 14 days," said a resident. "A smartly-dressed woman came in and ordered meat for her dogs. The poor one grabbed the rich woman by the hair and began kicking her."

Algerian agricultural production increases

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria recorded increased agricultural production in the three seasons ending last year, mainly due to particularly favourable weather conditions, according to statistics published Wednesday by the official news agency APS.

There were substantial increases in the output of pulses, potatoes, fresh vegetables and fodder crops which increased from 677,000 to 1,260,000 tonnes.

Bull cereals dropped last year to 2.5 million tonnes from the 1985 record of three million tonnes.

Hot-house crops increased by a phenomenal 360 per cent from 50,000 to 180,000 tonnes, indicating a big expansion in this type of cultivation designed to protect crops from the vagaries of the weather.

THE BETTER HALF

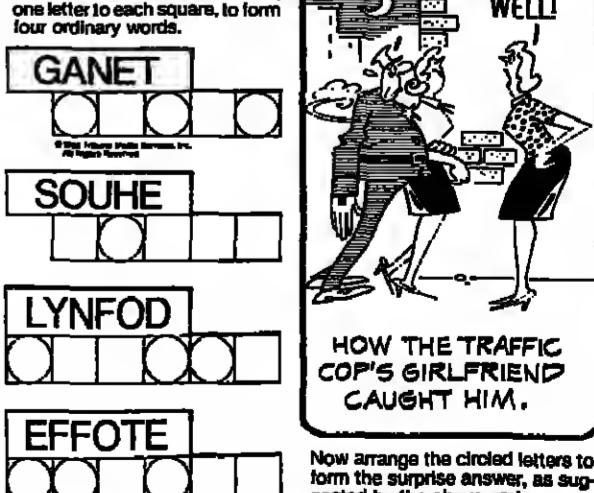
By Harris



JUMBLE

THAT SCRABBLE WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Aquino clips her powers by proclaiming new constitution

MANILA (R) — President Corazon Aquino Wednesday proclaimed a new constitution that takes away her near-dictatorial powers and restores her country to full democracy for the first time in 14 years.

Mrs. Aquino signed the proclamation at a solemn ceremony in the same chandeliered presidential palace hall where former ruler Ferdinand Marcos exactly a year ago, tried to rally his nation just before fleeing into exile in Hawaii.

"The night is over. The day is here. Let us finally put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armour of light," Mrs. Aquino said quoting from St. Paul after she wrote down her name, using eight gold pens.

She later gave away seven of the pens to her top aides, keeping

one herself.

The 22,000-word constitution, which curbs the presidential right to declare martial law and sets the stage for legislative and local elections next summer, was approved by a massive vote of 16,622,111 in favour and 4,953,757 against in a plebiscite on Feb. 2.

Mrs. Aquino hopes to use her landslide victory in the plebiscite to assert her full authority over a nation battered by economic problems, coup plots and a resurgent 18-year Communist insurgency.

Countries asked to take part in U.S. 'supercollider'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Proposals for participation in the United States' "supercollider" atomic research project have been extended to countries throughout the world, a U.S. government official said.

The administration of President Ronald Reagan hopes other nations will want to contribute technology, equipment or funds to the \$4.4 billion effort, said Dr. Alvin W. Trivelpiece, director of energy research for the Energy Department.

Dr. Trivelpiece told a gathering of foreign correspondents Tuesday that there have been informal talks with scientists from Japan and some other countries, but that no formal replies have been received.

Foreign countries including the Soviet Union, he said, are invited to "decide what interest they have, what contribution they could make and what they expect in return." Even modest proposals would be welcome, he said.

Dr. Trivelpiece said Soviet collaboration on the giant atom-smasher would not necessarily be

unique.

"We have a fundamental protocol with the Soviet Union" on basic research topics such as the fundamental properties of matter, that could cover the super-collider, he said.

Under the U.S.-Soviet protocol, he said, Soviet scientists have worked in the United States "even during periods of political stress." Soviets have visited the Fermi Laboratory near Chicago, site of the largest particle accelerator in the world and mentioned as a possible location for the larger facility.

In this field of research, "hardly any paper is done by the scientist of one country any more, making it truly an international activity," Dr. Trivelpiece said. Thus, he said, the Soviets "can certainly make suggestions if they want to cooperate, and if so, bow."

Earlier, Energy Secretary John S. Herrington told a news conference that the government would try to select a site by January 1989 for the \$4.4 billion supercollider.

Dublin opposition will not scrap Anglo-Irish pact

DUBLIN (R) — Opposition leader Charles Haughey, tipped by opinion polls to win next week's Irish election, has confirmed that a controversial Anglo-Irish accord on Northern Ireland would not be abandoned if he returns to power.

Mr. Haughey, a hardline Republican, was once a staunch opponent of the 1985 accord, which gives Dublin a consultative voice in the running of the British-ruled province, torn by sectarian strife.

But he has since softened his stance and said in a radio phone-in programme Tuesday: "When we come into office, we will have to accept the situation as we find it."

He added: "Democratic Western governments have to accept agreements which are there when they come in. Civilised governments cannot renege on an international agreement signed by their predecessors — they have to honour it."

The agreement, widely regarded as the major achievement of Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald, has been generally welcomed.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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TWO HELPINGS OF DUCK

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A72
♦ 10532
8
♦ K975

WEST
♦ K42
♦ 1055
754
1973
♦ AJ1085
♦ AJ103
862

SOUTH
♦ Q86
♦ K76
♦ K42
4

The bidding: Four of ♦

both located, it looked as if four hearts would be a simple contract to make.

Rosen elected to lead a trump, his partner won the ace and returned the suit to declarer's king. The four of clubs was led and, even though that was possibly a singleton, West ducked and dummy's queen took the trick. The singleton diamond from the table was ducked by East and declarer won.

Declarer now tried to make the hand on a crossruff. But when two diamond ruffs on the table and two club ruffs in hand failed to draw either minor-suit ace, declarer had to settle for nine tricks with the help of a spade finesse.

But they have stressed that no amount of third party diplomacy can succeed if the five countries themselves are unable to reach agreement.

Just how far apart the two factions are was made painfully clear, delegates said, when El Salvador launched a blistering attack on the Soviet-backed Sandinista government shortly after the meeting began.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta accused Managua of trying to destabilise his country by supporting the leftist rebels against that El Salvador has been fighting a seven-year old civil war.

The Sandinistas were determined to export their revolution and subvert Central America with the help of Cuba, he added.

Even experienced defenders tend to take their aces too soon. Holding them to the right moment, even when declarer leads an obvious singleton, can reap rich rewards. Venezuelan stars Robert Benalm, West, and Francis Vernon, East, showed the right technique in a match against Panama.

North-South bid aggressively to game, thanks to North electing to jump to three hearts at his second turn, even though he had already made a two-over-one response. However, with all three missing aces and the king of spades favor-

able Minister Rafael Ileto, who attended the ceremony, told Reuters the sword of war Mrs. Aquino had promised to unsheathe against insurgents if her peace efforts failed "is sharper now than ever."

She issued the proclamation the day after 14 people — 11 soldiers, an army lieutenant and two civilians — were killed in the first major flareup of fighting after a 60-day ceasefire.

Gen. Ileto said "there could be intensified fighting, it's hard to say" the days ahead with the resumption of skirmishes in the countryside.

Applause burst across the hall when election commission Chairman Ramon Felipe banded Mrs. Aquino the official plebiscite results, saying "our people have spoken."

Hours later, Marcos fled after his government collapsed in the face of a civilian-backed

After declaring the charter "duly ratified by the Filipino people and in full force as of today," the 54-year-old president stood before supreme court Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee, placed her left hand on a black, gilt-edged family Bible and swore "to preserve and defend the constitution."

She later administered the same oath of allegiance to 206 officials, including her cabinet ministers, gathered in front of her.

Mrs. Aquino spoke on the same spot, overlooking the River Pasig, where Marcos almost a year ago to the day was sworn in as president following a fraudulent election.

The resolution seemed likely to set priest and politician on a collision course in the violence-racked north Indian state where politics and religion have traditionally gone hand in hand.

The high priests declared Mr. Barnala a sinner on Monday for refusing to dissolve his highly-idealised party to permit the formation of a new unified Akali Dal including his more hardline Sikh political opponents.

The priests, who sit in the

er Daily News in an interview published Wednesday that the troops were advancing in Jaffna, 320 kilometres north of Colombo, and the northern town of Mannar at a rate of 100 metres a day.

"We have only 1,400 metres more (in Jaffna) to capture," he said.

"If the forces occupy 100 metres and stabilise control over this area each day, that will be adequate."

Mr. Athulathmudali said nearly 5,000 troops were combing jungles in northern and eastern areas of Sri Lanka to flush out rebels in a widespread offensive, now in its seventh day.

The guerrillas are fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

3 youths charged with New York racial murder

NEW YORK (AP) — Three teen-agers were charged with murder and nine others with lesser crimes in a racial attack in which a white mob beat three black men and chased one of them into traffic, where he was killed by a car.

The suspects, ages 16 to 18, surrendered Tuesday morning to police in the New York City Borough of Queens, where the attack took place on Dec. 20.

The 12 defendants, accompanied to state supreme court by parents and lawyers, were arraigned before Justice Alfred D. Lerner. All pleaded innocent.

Two of the three youths charged with murder Tuesday had previously faced the same charge until a judge dropped it for lack of testimony by the surviving.

Opinion polls show only four per cent of the electorate consider the national question of Northern Ireland a major election issue. The campaign for the Feb. 17 poll has been dominated by the crisis in the economy.

Ireland's national debt has soared, unemployment has reached almost 20 per cent and up to 30,000 young people a year are emigrating to the United States, Australia and Britain.

A communiqué was delayed as Nicaragua and its pro-U.S. neighbours argued over the wording.

In its final form the declaration limited itself to expressions of support for the Contadora initiative and called on all countries with interests in the region to work for a lasting peace.

The plan reportedly calls for the Sandinistas to open dialogue with their internal opposition on the restoration of democratic freedoms.

"It is unacceptable that other countries should gather together to tell us what to do with our internal affairs," he told reporters Tuesday.

The plan reportedly calls for greater economic cooperation with both Europe and among the Central American countries themselves.

"Nicaragua is the most democratic country in Central America," Mr. D'Escoto said.

European delegates said there was a growing sense of frustration among the 12 EC countries in the face of the increasing polarisation of right and left-wing positions in Central America.

"I wish some of them were wondering here what was the point of our trying to help," said one senior envoy.

There were also signs the Europeans are looking for more positive and concrete actions towards peace, perhaps to include specific timetables for direct negotiations.

Delegates said The Netherlands particularly urged a more pragmatic approach in closed-door sessions Tuesday.

They also noted a hardening of Europe's attitude towards the Nicaraguans who have tightened their clampdown on civil liberties due to the perceived threat from the U.S.-financed contra rebels.

Nicaragua itself Tuesday proposed a solution be sought on the basis of a set of Contadora proposals elaborated three years ago but European delegates, talking privately to reporters, dismissed the idea as mere propaganda.

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Punjab chief minister excommunicated

NEW DELHI (R) — The high priests of the Sikh faith excommunicated Punjab's embattled chief minister Wednesday for defying their edict to dissolve his moderate wing of the state's ruling Akali Dal (Party).

The priests' decision was announced in the Sikh holy city Amritsar and followed Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala's refusal to heed a summons to appear before the priests at 2 p.m. (0830 GMT).

The chief minister had been ordered to the Golden Temple in Amritsar, the Sikhs' holiest shrine, to answer charges. But the chief minister instead sent an aide with a written answer.

Akali Dal members loyal to Mr. Barnala passed a resolution late Tuesday urging him to defy the order from the high priests, traditionally the supreme authority for India's 14 million Sikhs.

The resolution seemed likely to set priest and politician on a collision course in the violence-racked north Indian state where politics and religion have traditionally gone hand in hand.

The high priests declared Mr. Barnala a sinner on Monday for refusing to dissolve his highly-idealised party to permit the formation of a new unified Akali Dal including his more hardline Sikh political opponents.

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Mr. Athulathmudali said nearly 5,000 troops were combing jungles in northern and eastern areas of Sri Lanka to flush out rebels in a widespread offensive, now in its seventh day.

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COLUMNS 7 & 8

U.S. ambassador teargassed

ASUNCION, Paraguay (AP) — Thirty policemen disrupted a dinner party in honour of the U.S. ambassador to Paraguay and teargassed him, his wife and 300 guests officials said. There were no injuries reported in the disturbance outside the home of an opposition activist in suburban Trinidad. Witnesses and embassy sources said Ambassador Clyde Taylor and his wife Virginia were rushed away from the house by U.S. Marines. "Police threw a (tear gas) grenade near a table where Taylor was," one diplomatic source said. The source said Mr. Taylor telephoned Foreign Minister Carlos Saldivar to complain of his treatment, but embassy sources would not say whether the incident would be protested formally.

TV crew roughed up in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Western television crews trying to film a Moscow street protest against the detention of Jewish dissident Iosif Begun were roughed up by a group of young men who damaged their equipment, witnesses said. They said several dozen youths closed in as the television crews approached a small group of demonstrators on the Arbat, a pedestrian street